

## REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: Cedar Chemical (06NH)

DATE: March 13, 2013

CONTACT: Lance Nixon  
EPA Enforcement Officer

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: Special Notice Letter to be issued to Prior Owners and Arrangers

DEADLINE DATE: April 15, 2013

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### BACKGROUND:

The Cedar Chemical site is an abandoned chemical manufacturing facility located in Phillips County, Arkansas south of West Helena, Arkansas. The plant is located on 48 acres of the Helena-West Helena Industrial Park, approximately one and one-quarter mile southwest of the intersection of U.S. Highway 49 and State Highway 242. The facility was initially operated by Helena Chemical in 1970. The facility was purchased by Eagle River Chemical and operated for approximately 18 months. From 1971 to 2002 the facility manufactured or processed a variety of agricultural and organic chemicals under various owners and operators. The last owner of record was Cedar Chemical Corporation. On March 8, 2002, Cedar Chemical Corporation filed for bankruptcy. Manufacturing and plant operations were shut down shortly thereafter. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) assumed control of the facility on October 12, 2002, and currently acts as the caretaker of the facility. Environmental issues associated with the facility include abandoned chemicals, buried drums, ground water contamination, surface and subsurface soil contamination and an abandoned storm water treatment system.

In January 2003, the EPA Region 6 conducted a Superfund removal action and removed chemicals left in tanks and containers. On March 22, 2007, ADEQ, pursuant to the authority of the Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act (RATFA), issued a Consent Administrative Order (CAO) LIS 07-027 to Tyco Safety Products-Ansul Incorporated, formerly known as Wormald US, Inc. (Ansul), Helena Chemical Company (Helena Chemical), and ExxonMobil Chemical Co., a division of ExxonMobil Corporation (ExxonMobil) regarding Cedar Chemical. The CAO directed that environmental concerns be addressed at the facility. A Site Investigation and Feasibility Study were completed in accordance with the terms of the CAO. Currently, the facility is leased to Quapaw Products LLC which is revitalizing two of the chemical production units. The Governor of Arkansas requested that Cedar Chemical Corporation be placed on the NPL using Arkansas's one state NPL site selection under CERCLA; the site was listed on the NPL September 18, 2012.

### CURRENT STATUS:

Enforcement has identified 2 former owner, former operator and potential generators. The site team is currently reviewing 5 104(e) responses from companies that were also involved in toll manufacturing activities at the Site. Toll manufacturing contracts provided in the 104(e) responses are currently being reviewed by Toerek to analyze chemicals manufactured at the Site to compare them with contaminants of concern. The analysis is expected to be completed by March 30, 2013.

### ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

In January 2003, the EPA Region 6 conducted a Superfund removal action and removed chemicals left in tanks and containers. The remaining Environmental issues associated with the facility include ground



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water contamination, surface and subsurface soil contamination and an abandoned storm water treatment system. Ground water contaminated with EDC is being used for crop irrigation by local farmers.

(b) (5)

#### **REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Complete analysis of potential liability of PRPs.

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

Facility is located in a sparse rural industrial area. No community concerns at this time.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Issue notice letters to prior owners of the Site, Helena Chemical and Tyco-Ansul, and to companies that arranged for disposal at the Site. Special Notice letter issuance planned April 30, 2013.

##### **Prior Owners (PRP's identified)**

- Helena Chemical
- Tyco-Ansul (fka Wormald)

##### **Arrangers:**

**The following were issued 104(e) based on documents retrieved by the EO from a Site visit. The 104(e)'s issued on September 20, 2012.**

- ExxonMobil: 1571 page response received December 12, 2012. A 2500 page supplemental response was provided on January 29, 2013. Information included toll manufacturing agreements from other companies that had chemicals blended at the Site. It also included invoices and correspondence.
- Dupont: 2001 page response received October 17, 2012. Stated that they had only one document related to the Site. Provide documentation provided to them by Exxon.
- Rohm and Haas: 833 page response received November 15, 2012. Response included information provided to them from Exxon. Otherwise, stated that they had no documents.
- BFGoodrich: 354 page response received October 24, 2012. Stated they did not intend for or have knowledge of any raw materials provided by them were disposed of at the Site.
- Oregon California Chemical: 2 page response received September 24, 2012. The letter stated that Oregon California Chemicals had dissolved and that Tessengerlo Kerley, Inc.



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took over the metam sodium business. Additional corporate research required to verify dissolution and clarify the type of acquisition of Oregon California Chemicals.

**The following were issued 104(e) based on information provided by ExxonMobil in their 104(e) response. The 104(e)'s issued on January 14, 2013. All responses expected mid March.**

- BASF Corporation: Request received January 22. Extension requested
- Bayer CropScience: Request received January 22. Extension requested
- BP: Confirmation Card not received.
- Chevron Corporation: Request received January 22. Extension requested
- FMC Corporation: Request received January 24, 2013. Extension requested
- Rhodia: Request received January 22, 2013. Extension requested
- Syngenta: Request received January 22. Extension requested



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